



High Impact Wind Storm to affect region

December 14, 2021
3:17 PM

Heavy snow in the mountains and Fire Weather on the plains are major concerns

Key Messages

- A strong system is expected to impact the region this evening into Wednesday
- Heavy snow and dangerous travel is expected across the southwest mtns tonight/early tomorrow
- Extreme/Damaging winds gusting to 60-80 mph across both the higher and lower elevations of southern CO on Wednesday
- Critical to extremely critical fire danger across the plains Wednesday afternoon

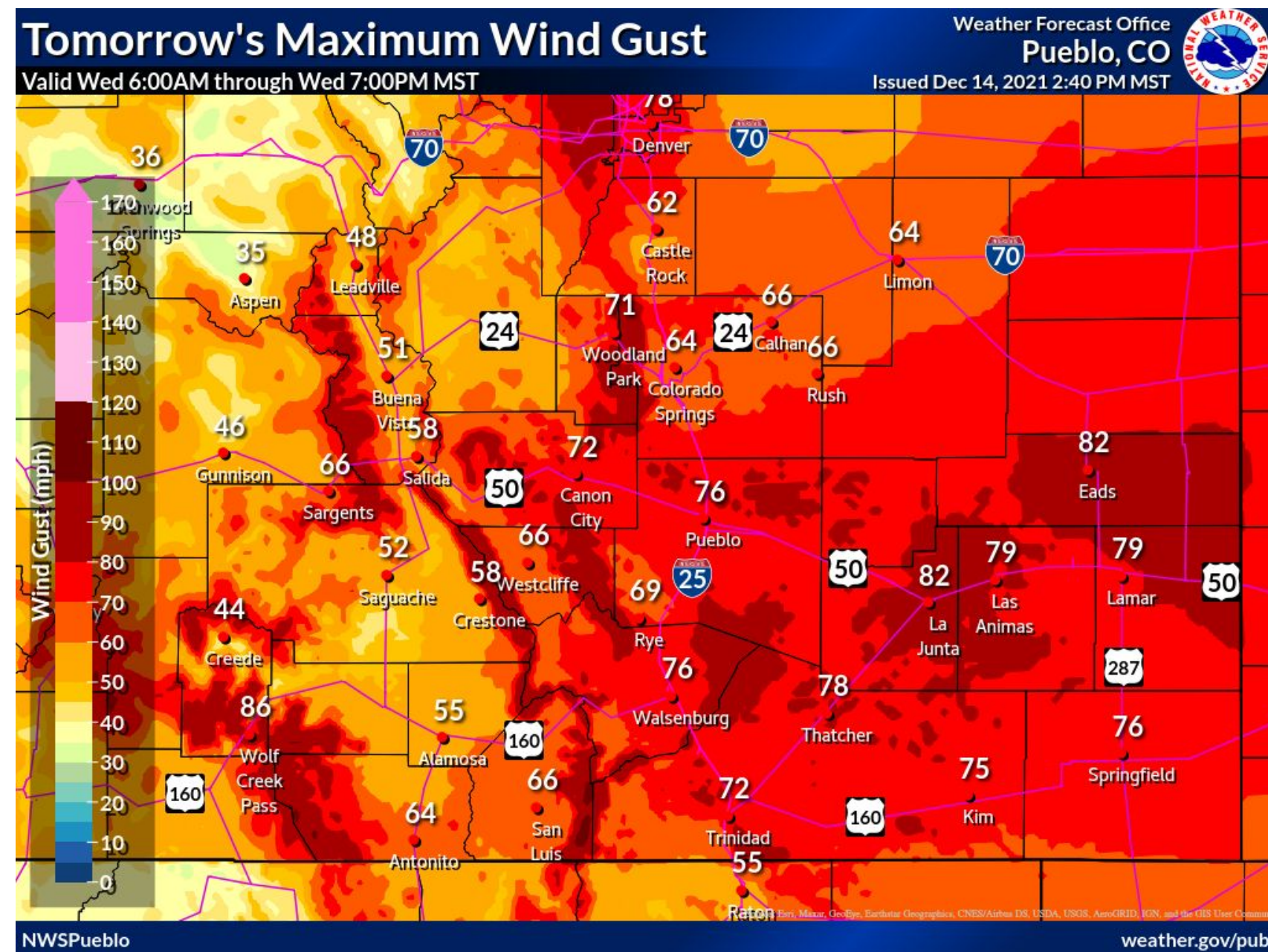
NEW

Important Updates

- Red Flag warning expanded to include all of our eastern plains
- Increased winds Wednesday afternoon
- Increased snow accumulation over the mountains

Next Scheduled Briefing

- Wednesday morning

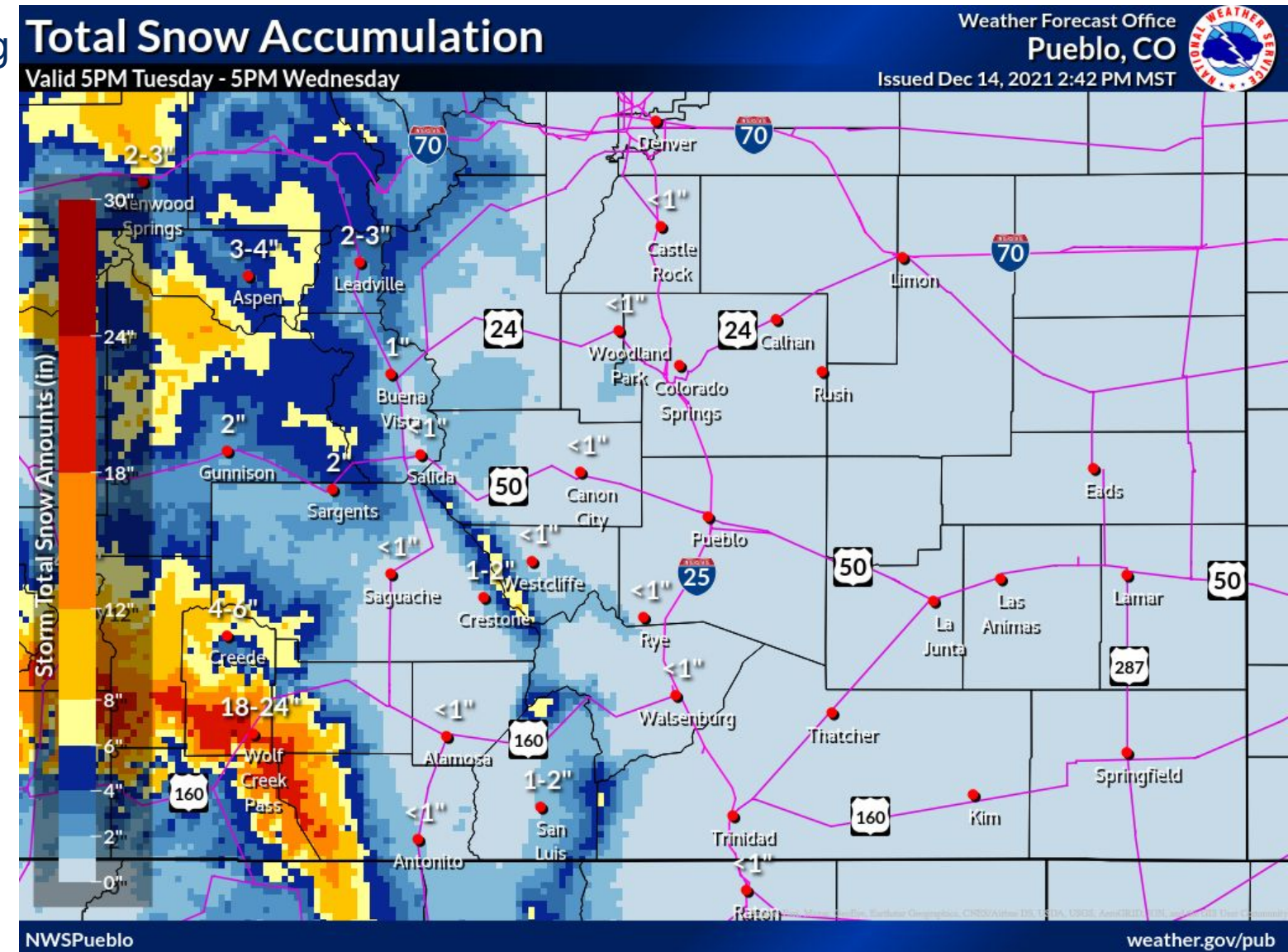
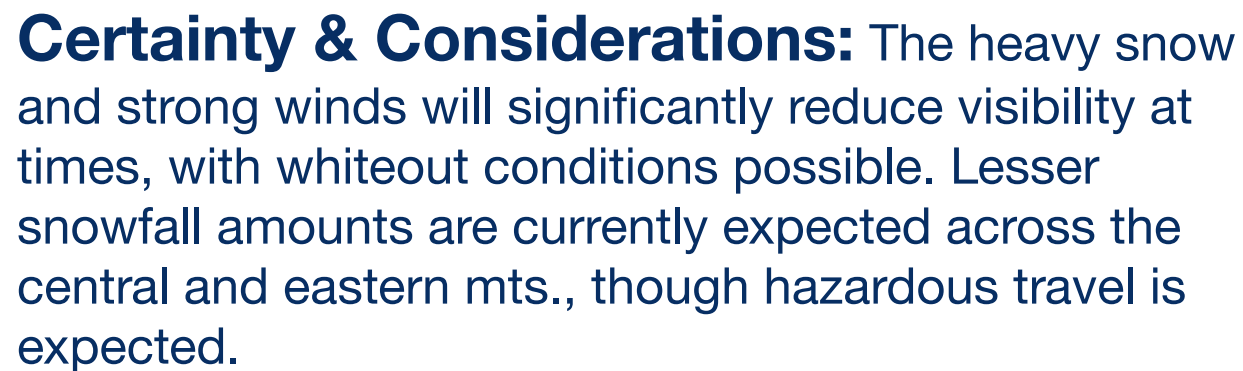
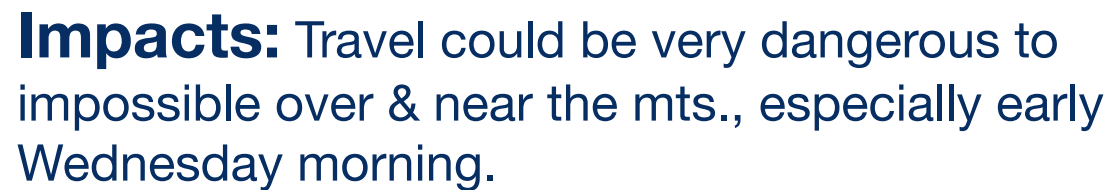
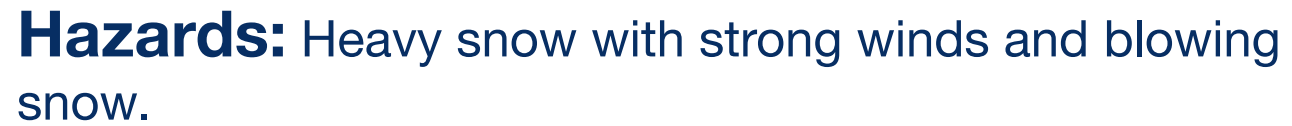


National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Pueblo, Colorado



Highest Snowfall Amounts and Impacts Across the Southwest Mountains



**National Weather Service
Pueblo, Colorado**



Winter Impacts

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Graphical Hazards Matrix

	Tue 9 PM-12 AM	Wed 12 AM-3 AM	Wed 3 AM-6 AM	Wed 6 AM-9 AM	Wed 9 AM-12 PM	Wed 12 PM-3 PM
Southwest Mountains						
Central Mountains						
Eastern Mountains						
High Valleys						
Plains W of I-25						

- About This Graphic -

The hazard matrix depicts timing and magnitude of potential impacts to local travel and infrastructure from snowfall rates and/or amounts, blowing snow, ice, and cold temperatures.

Potential aggravating factors such as time of day, pre-existing conditions, and holiday travel periods are also taken into consideration.

Impact Level	Little/None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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Snow Squalls Possible early Wed

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Possible Hazardous Driving Conditions

Highlights

- Snow squall potential will increase early Wed morning from the Continental Divide east to the Mountain/Plains interface
- Best chance between 3 AM (CONTDVD) and 7 AM (Mountain/Plains interface)
- Window will be small for any one location, likely only around one hour or less
- Under these snow squalls, heavy snow will quickly develop with sharp reductions to visibility - whiteout conditions
- Roads may become slippery, especially across the higher terrain
- Snow accumulations may be minimal across the lower elevations, though the blinding wind driven snow will create hazardous driving conditions

SNOW SQUALLS

- Intense bursts of snow and wind
- Short duration
- Whiteout visibility
- Rapidly deteriorating road conditions

National Weather Service **SNOW SQUALL WARNINGS**

- Issued when a snow squall is occurring or imminent
- Typically in effect for 30-60 minutes in a small, targeted area
- Can trigger a Wireless Emergency Alert to your phone
- When issued, slow down or delay travel

weather.gov





Expected Storm Hazards/Impacts

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Current Confidence Levels

Hazards/Impacts - Mountains

Low	Medium	High
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Hazards/Impacts - High Mt. Valleys

Low	Medium	High
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Hazards/Impacts - SE Plains

Low	Medium	High
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Highlights

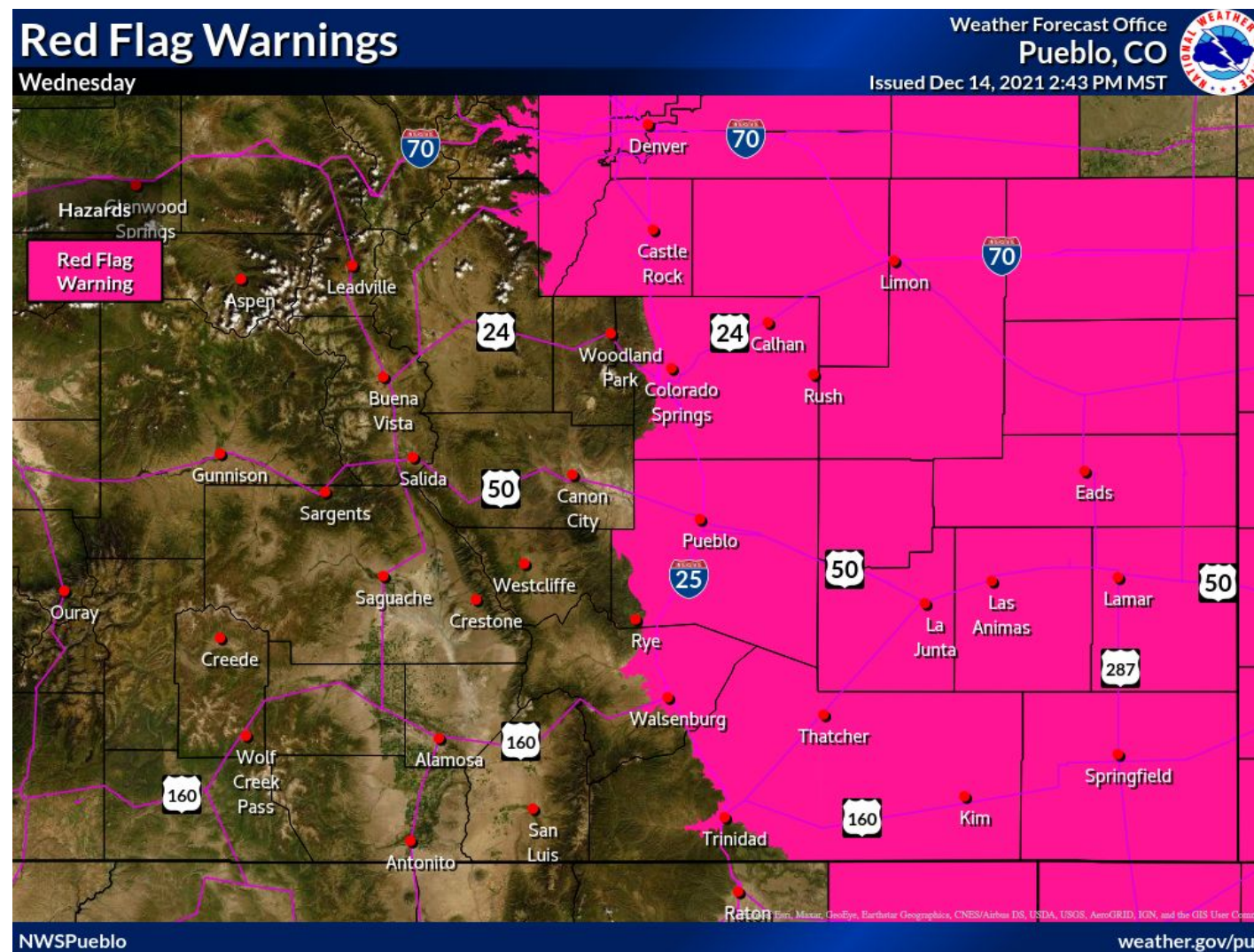
- Travel may become very dangerous to impossible as high snow rates and very strong winds create whiteout conditions at times across the southwest mts early Wednesday morning. Lesser snowfall across the central & eastern mts., though damaging winds are still possible
- Damaging winds gusting to 60 to 80 mph w/ blowing dust expected on Wednesday
- Damaging winds gusting to 70 to 80 mph with blowing dust & critical fire weather conditions/high fire danger expected.





High Fire Danger Tomorrow

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Highlights

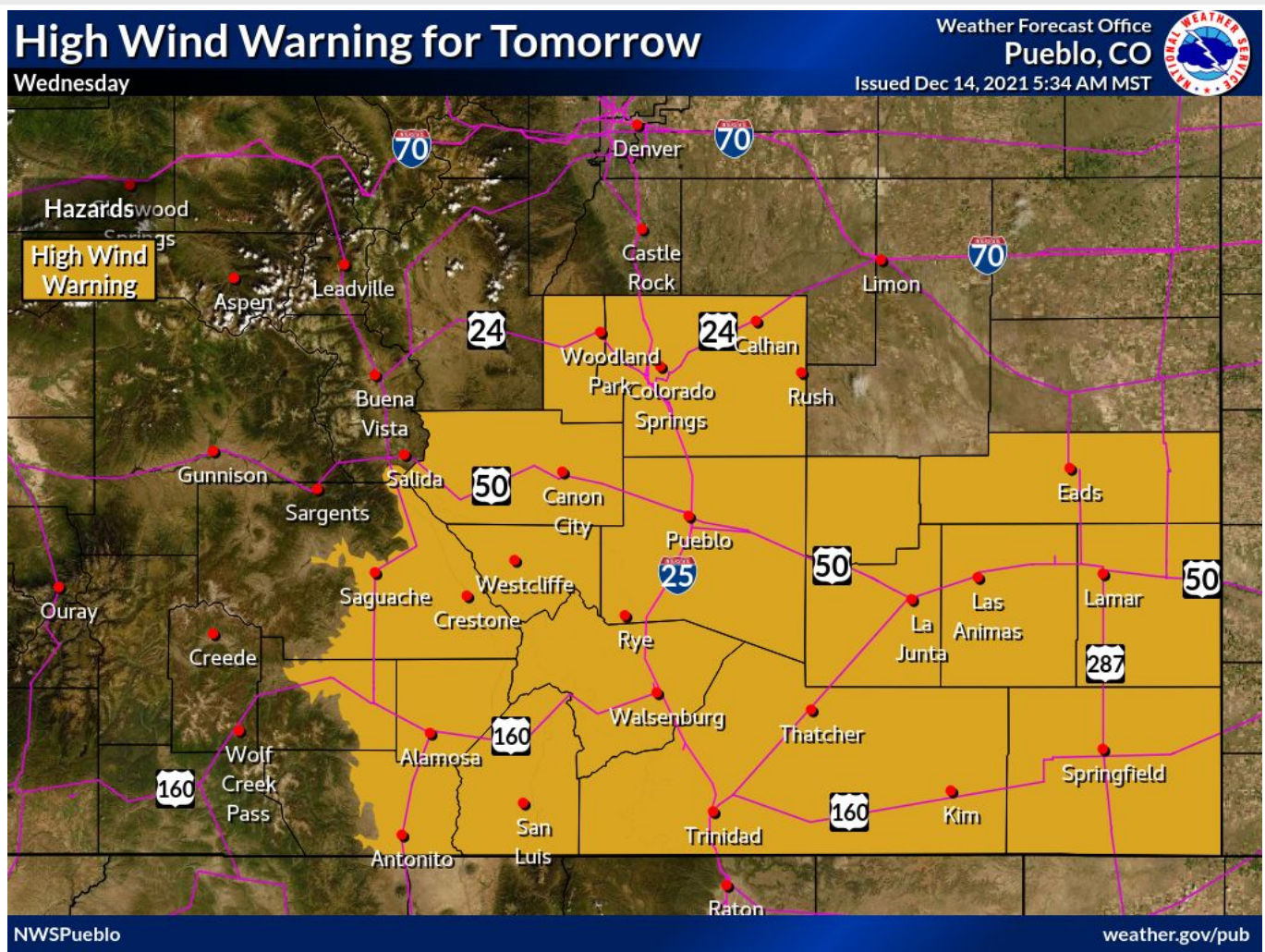
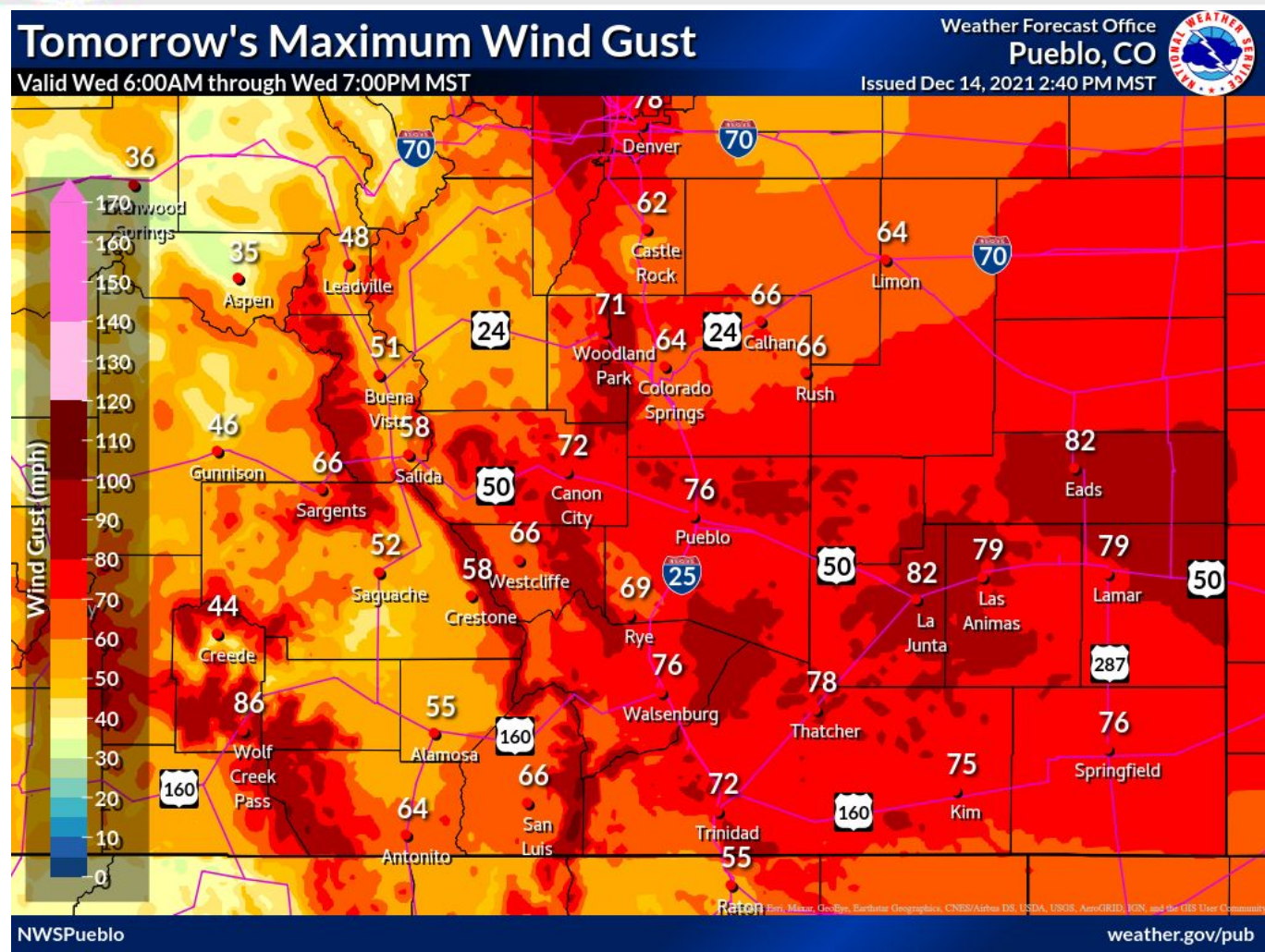
- High Fire Danger/Critical fire weather conds. are expected tomorrow afternoon across all of the eastern plains
 - ◆ Low RH values and very strong winds gusting to 70 to 80 mph





Damaging winds likely Tomorrow

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Highlights

- Damaging winds are possible tomorrow across the plains.
- ◆ Gusts to 70 to 80 mph are likely. Localized gusts upwards of 90-100 mph are possible.





Strong to Damaging Winds

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Graphical Hazards Matrix

	Tue 9 PM-1 AM	Wed 1 AM-5 AM	Wed 5 AM-9 AM	Wed 9 AM-1 PM	Wed 1 PM-5 PM	Wed 5 PM-9 PM
I-25 Corridor						
Southeast Plains						
Southwest Mountains						
Central Mountains						
San Luis Valley						

- About This Graphic -

The hazard matrix depicts timing and magnitude of potential impacts from high winds which could lead to adverse impacts to travel and property.

Impact Level	Little/None	Limited	Elevated	Significant	Extreme
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Be Prepared for Power Outages

Strong winds can knock out power

Check your emergency kit to make sure it has everything you need



WINTER DRIVING KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Check road conditions.
Call 511 or visit your state's DOT webpage to check on road conditions. Choose a different route or adjust your travel plans if road conditions are poor.

Pack an emergency supply kit.
Stock your vehicle with a mobile phone, charger, batteries, blankets, flashlight, first-aid kit, high-calorie, non-perishable food, candle to melt snow for drinking water, sack of sand or cat litter for traction, shovel, scraper, and battery booster cables.

Get the weather forecast.
Change your travel plans if hazardous weather is expected.



Ready your vehicle.
Check your battery, wipers, coolant, and other systems affected by cold temperature. Make sure your tires have good tread. Clear snow, ice or dirt from your windows, lights and camera.

WILDFIRE SAFETY

- Properly discard cigarettes.
- Keep vehicles off of dry grass.
- Avoid activities with open flames or sparks.
- Avoid power equipment that creates sparks.
- Obey burn bans.
- Evacuate if fire/smoke is heading your way.
- Evacuate if ordered to do so by local officials.

weather.gov/fire





Regional Road Travel Sites

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- Area Roadway Sites -

[Colorado - cotrip.org](http://cotrip.org)

[New Mexico - nmroads.com](http://nmroads.com)

[Kansas - kandrive.org](http://kandrive.org)

[Oklahoma - oktraffic.org](http://oktraffic.org)

[Texas - drivetexas.org](http://drivetexas.org)

[Arizona - az511.com](http://az511.com)

[Utah - udottraffic.utah.gov](http://udottraffic.utah.gov)

[Wyoming - map.wyoroad.info](http://map.wyoroad.info)

[Nebraska - new.511.nebraska.gov](http://new.511.nebraska.gov)

